



SENATE FISH AND GAME
EXHIBIT NO. 11
DATE 3-26-13
BILL NO. SB 397

Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
P O Box 2243
Missoula, MT 59806

Senate Bill 397

March 26, 2013

Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Keith Kubista and I am here today representing Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife in support of SB 397.

Senate Bill 397 is the perfect solution to the cause and effect of over predation by lions, bears, and wolves which results in restrictions to hunting opportunities and in some cases negative consequences to rural economies.

This bill is long overdue and addresses with point blank precision predator control in the areas that other statute or regulation should have with regard to managing predators to limit impacts on big game populations and hunting opportunities

This bill is all about restoring big game populations that are severely impacted by an abundance of predators, although it is focused on using elk population numbers, deer and moose will benefit from it as well.

Predators learn very quickly, are extremely resilient and adapt faster than we can create laws or set new seasonal structures to hunt or trap them.

We need SB 397 which creates an automatic mechanism to reduce predators when they cause declines to big game herds.

Although there is more data on elk, moose are in much worse shape than elk in many regions due primarily to wolf predation, this bill will give relief to those struggling herds as well.

One of the best outcomes of this bill is that it will increase calf recruitment for both elk and moose since studies indicate predators preferentially select calves.

With the balancing of predator prey ratios that SB 397 provides we will see restrictions lifted and big game hunting opportunities restored.

I urge this committee to pass Senate Bill 397 which will accomplish what FWP has attempted to do thus far without success.